

**Big River Management Area:** BRMA consists of approximately 8600 acres of open space. It is the largest, publicly owned, land parcel in Rhode Island. Its borders extend through portions of the towns of West Greenwich, East Greenwich, Coventry, and Exeter. Largely undeveloped, the land was originally condemned for water supply purposes. Some two hundred, single-family dwellings were once located there. Today the Board maintains leases on 39 residential properties, 3 commercial properties as well as the state-owned portion of Maple Root Corporation, a mobile home park. Today the land is managed as open space.

**Gray Water:** Domestic wastewater composed of wash water from kitchen, bathroom, and laundry sinks, tubs, and washers.

**Ground Water:** The supply of fresh water found beneath the Earth's surface, usually in aquifers, which supply wells and springs. Because ground water is a major source of drinking water, there is growing concern over contamination from leaching agricultural or industrial pollutants or leaking underground storage tanks. **Water Supplier:** One who owns or operates a public water system.

**Recharge Area:** A land area in which water reaches the zone of saturation from surface infiltration, e.g., where rainwater soaks through the earth to reach an aquifer.

**Underground Sources of Drinking Water:** Aquifers currently being used as a source of drinking water or those capable of supplying a public water system.

**Urban Runoff:** Storm water from city streets and adjacent domestic or commercial properties that carries pollutants of various kinds into the sewer systems and receiving waters.

**Water Supply System:** The collection, treatment, storage, and distribution of potable water from source to consumer.

**Water Table:** The level of groundwater.

**Water Well:** An excavation where the intended use is for location, acquisition, development, or artificial recharge of ground water.

**Watershed:** The land area that drains into a stream; the watershed for a major river may encompass a number of smaller watersheds that ultimately combine at a common point.

**Wetlands:** An area that is saturated by surface or ground water with vegetation adapted for life under those soil conditions, as swamps, bogs, fens, marshes, and estuaries.

